



Crop Weather Report

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For the Week Ending:
March 31, 2013

Weather Summary

The week ending March 31 was marked by warm days, cold nights, and little precipitation for much of Montana. Swan Lake received the highest amount of precipitation for the week with 0.24 of an inch of moisture. Most other stations reported receiving little to no precipitation. High temperatures ranged from the lower 40s to lower 70s, with the state-wide high temperature of 71 degrees recorded at Superior. A majority of stations reported lows well below zero to the upper teens, the coldest being Scobey at -22 degrees, followed by Ophiem with -19 degrees.

The weather outlook for April 8th through April 14th is for above normal temperatures and above normal precipitation both east and west of the Great Divide. Normal temperatures for this period in Montana are highs in the lower 40s to mid 50s, with lows in the upper teens to the lower 30s. Topsoil moisture adequate and surplus is 60 percent compared with 54 percent last year and the 5 year average of 69 percent. Subsoil moisture was 47 percent adequate and surplus compared to 50 percent last year and the 5 year average of 61 percent.

Soil Moisture Table	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Yr Avg
Topsoil Moisture				
Very Short	18	16	13	10
Short	22	23	33	21
Adequate	57	57	53	59
Surplus	3	4	1	10
Subsoil Moisture				
Very Short	25	22	10	12
Short	28	34	40	27
Adequate	47	43	46	56
Surplus	0	1	4	5

Field Crops Report

Winter wheat condition is rated 50 percent good to excellent, compared to 24 percent good to excellent from last year and the 5 year average of 44 percent good to excellent as dry conditions continued and precipitation was minimal throughout most of the state. Winter wheat is showing signs of spring with 30% of greening, 12% green & growing, and 58% remains dormant as nights remained cold. Field work has just begun with 13 percent just started and 4 percent well underway compared to 27 percent and 11 percent, respectively, last year. Days suitable for field work were 3.0 days compared to 4.5 days last year. Planting of small grains is off to an early start with 11 percent of barley planted compared to 6 percent last year and the 5 year average of 2 percent. Oats are 1 percent planted slightly behind the 3 percent planted at the same last year. Spring wheat planting is 1 percent complete behind 4 percent last year but at the same pace as the 5 year average of 1 percent. Reports are coming in with concerns that continued dry and cold conditions will impact crop growth this year if the state doesn't receive adequate precipitation soon.

Crop Progress and Condition Table	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Yr Avg
Winter Wheat				
Very Poor	1	3	3	2
Poor	11	10	13	7
Fair	38	43	60	47
Good	46	40	22	40
Excellent	4	4	2	4
Winter Wheat Spring Stages				
Still Dormant	58	71	43	66
Greening	30	26	43	28
Green & Growing	12	3	14	6
Barley				
Planted	11	na	6	2
Oats				
Planted	1	na	3	1
Spring Wheat				
Planted	1	na	4	1

Livestock Report

Early spring grazing conditions are 59 percent open, below last year's 85 percent but right at the 5 year average of 59 percent. The need to provide supplemental feed continues as pasture grasses have not yet started growing. Feeding is higher than the previous year with 95 percent of cattle and 96 percent of sheep being fed. Livestock birthing has continued just behind last year with 51 percent calving completed and 33 percent lambing completed.

Range & Livestock Table	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Yr Avg
Livestock Birthing				
Calving Complete	51	38	52	53
Lambing Complete	33	24	34	37
Livestock Grazing				
Open	59	50	85	59
Difficult	21	23	5	22
Closed	20	27	10	19
Livestock Receiving Supplemental Feed				
Cattle and Calves	95	95	87	92
Sheep and Lams	96	97	85	92
Range and Pasture Feed Condition				
Very Poor	28	na	3	na
Poor	35	na	19	na
Fair	28	na	45	na
Good	9	na	31	na
Excellent	0	na	2	na

Weather Information for the week ending 03/31/2013

Station ID						Precipitation				
	Temperature			GDDs		This Week		October 1 to Date		
	Hi	LOW	AVG	B50	DFN	Total	DFN	Total	DFN	%NRM
NORTHWEST										
Alberton	62	15	41	0	+0	0.01	-0.20	9.03	+3.29	157
Anaconda	61	12	41	0	+0	0.00	-0.28	4.65	+0.54	113
Clinton	64	15	43	0	+0	0.08	-0.09	7.10	-0.27	96
Corvallis	67	15	43	0	+0	0.03	-0.17	5.18	+0.94	122
Creston	65	16	41	0	+0	0.06	-0.29	7.55	-0.65	92
Deer Lodge	60	9	37	0	+0	0.03	-0.07	1.99	-0.42	83
Drummond	62	14	42	0	+0	0.00	-0.21	5.51	+1.20	128
Hamilton	64	16	42	0	+0	0.09	-0.12	6.39	+0.51	109
Kalispell	61	15	39	0	+0	0.23	+0.02	7.48	-0.33	96
Missoula	62	17	43	0	+0	0.06	-0.15	6.52	+0.78	114
Olney	58	5	33	0	+0	0.13	-0.15	12.72	+0.89	108
Polson	64	15	41	0	+0	0.00	-0.28	5.68	-0.74	88
St Ignatius	65	16	44	0	+0	0.01	-0.27	4.81	-1.38	78
Seeley Lake	57	3	36	0	+0	0.02	-0.23	12.60	+1.06	109
Sula	64	15	42	0	+0	0.04	-0.23	6.65	+0.80	114
Superior	71	18	45	0	+0	0.03	-0.25	9.33	+1.04	113
Swan Lake	60	13	37	0	+0	0.24	-0.14	8.15	-7.99	50
Thompson Falls	70	21	43	0	+0	0.07	-0.28	11.67	-1.85	86
West Glacier	62	14	40	0	+0	0.04	-0.33	19.38	+3.76	124
NORTH CENTRAL										
Chester	64	13	37	0	+0	0.00	-0.14	4.29	+2.01	188
Chinook	61	7	35	0	+0	0.00	-0.14	3.40	+0.36	112
Choteau	62	8	40	0	+0	0.00	-0.10	3.13	+1.37	178
Cut Bank	59	13	39	0	+0	0.00	-0.14	2.60	+0.18	107
Ft Assinniboine	60	12	36	0	+0	0.00	-0.18	3.44	+0.24	107
Fort Benton	63	11	38	0	+0	0.00	-0.21	4.26	+0.62	117
Goldbutte	59	11	37	0	+0	0.00	-0.21	4.08	+0.97	131
Harlem	60	7	35	0	+0	0.00	-0.14	3.81	+1.43	160
Havre	61	14	38	0	+0	0.00	-0.17	4.68	+1.58	151
Malta	59	9	36	0	+0	0.00	-0.14	3.90	+0.97	133
Rudyard	64	9	38	0	+0	0.00	-0.11	4.21	+2.39	231
Shelby	62	8	38	0	+0	0.00	-0.19	3.42	+0.48	116
Turner	52	7	33	0	+0	0.00	-0.07	3.42	+1.19	153
Valier	58	14	40	0	+0	0.00	-0.14	3.42	+1.27	159
NORTHEAST										
Bredette	41	-3	21	0	+0	0.08	-0.06	4.40	+2.03	186
Culbertson	45	-17	21	0	+0	0.09	-0.05	5.47	+2.82	206
Glasgow	60	0	29	0	+0	0.01	-0.13	3.71	+1.17	146
Glendive	60	-2	33	0	+0	0.00	-0.17	4.21	+1.03	132
Jordan	62	8	36	0	+0	0.00	-0.14	3.59	+0.30	109
Nashua	57	-9	28	0	+0	0.00	-0.14	3.94	+1.70	176
Opheim	43	-19	19	0	+0	0.00	-0.07	10.41	+8.30	493
Plentywood	46	-14	17	0	+0	0.11	-0.03	5.20	+2.47	190
St Marie	53	-5	27	0	+0	0.00	-0.14	2.11	-0.43	83
Scobey	44	-22	22	0	+0	0.00	-0.14	3.49	+1.25	156